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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,559	03/04/2005	Edwin Nun	266369US0PCT	9365
22850	7590	07/31/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAZUMDAR, SONYA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1734		
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		07/31/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/526,559	NUN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sonya Mazumdar	1734	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007 and 08 May 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/17/2007</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on April 17, 2007 was filed after the mailing date of the Office Action on February 23, 2007. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

2. Addition of claims 18 through 24 have been acknowledged and are addressed below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's amendments, see pages 2 and 3 in remarks filed May 8, 2007, with respect to objection of claims 1, 2, 3, and 10, have been fully considered, and the objection has been withdrawn.

4. Applicant's amendments, see page 2 in the remarks filed, with respect to the rejection of claims 1 through 11 under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph, have been fully considered, and the rejection has been withdrawn.

5. Applicant's amendments, see page 2 in the remarks filed, with respect to the rejections of claims 1 through 11 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, have been fully considered, and the rejections have been withdrawn.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 through 11 and 12 through 17 have been considered, but in light of amendments to claim 1, are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1 through 11 and 18 through 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said plurality of hydrophobic nanostructured particles" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "said transfer medium" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claims 1 through 6, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerins et al. (US 6,638,603) in view of Keller et al. (EP 1153987)

With respect to claims 1, 2, 3, and 10, Kerins et al. teach a transfer coating method of a hydrophobic material on a carrier substrate to a water-sensitive film (abstract; column 3, line 66 – column 4, line 4). A carrier substrate, such as a release paper, is coated with the hydrophobic material, transferred to a film under heated conditions, and the carrier is removed to leave the material on the film (column 7, lines 33-57).

Kerins et al. do not specifically teach transferring hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface to a textile sheet. However, Keller et al. teach applying a coating onto conventional surfaces, such as textiles, where the coating comprises particles with a hydrophobic surface and a porous structure (abstract; paragraph 0053).

It would have been obvious to provide hydrophobic particles with nanostructured surfaces, as Keller et al. taught, and one would have been motivated to do so to reduce

adhesion to polar liquids, such as water, and solid deposits, such as dirt (paragraph 0008).

With respect to claims 4, 5, and 24, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. teach using particles with diameters from 0.05 μm to 50 μm (Keller: paragraph 0043).

With respect to claim 6, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. teach using particles consisting of polymers, such as polypropylene and polyethylene (Keller: paragraph 0043).

With respect to claim 9, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. teach applying a coating, comprising polymers such as polyvinyl chloride and fluoropolymers, on a water-sensitive film (Kerins: column 4, lines 25-29)

With respect to claims 14, 16, and 17, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. teach producing textiles having a self-cleaning surface that have many uses, such as tents, weathering protection, and other protective coverings (Keller: paragraphs 0069, 0070, and 0075).

With respect to claim 18 and 19, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. teach using hydrophobic particles having surface structures in a range of 0.1 μm to 1000 μm (100 nm to 10,000,000 nm) (Keller: paragraph 0008).

"Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955) (see MPEP § 2144.05)

With respect to claim 22, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not mention using a specific embossing or decorating process when applying a coating, therefore, it is implicit that such a technique is not used.

With respect to claim 23, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not mention any occurrence of solvation on the surface of a coated textile sheet after applying a coating, therefore, it is implicit that such a technique is not used.

11. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Toyoda et al. (US 6,245,188)

The teachings of claim 1 are as described.

Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not specifically teach particles on the surface of a release paper to have hydrophobic properties after performing treatment. However, Toyoda et al. teach that it would have been obvious to perform a hydrophobic surface treatment process with a compound such as hexamethyl disilazane to decrease surface energy of and enhance removal of the release paper (column 5, lines 27-38).

12. Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al., as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Groitzsch et al. (US 5,158,636)

The teachings of claim 1 are as described above.

With respect to claim 8, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not teach applying a coating having hydrophilic properties. However, Groitzsch et al. teach preparing a coating comprising polymer particles, where the coating is made to have hydrophilic properties (column 4, lines 42-50 and 59-61; column 8, lines 20-28; column 9, lines 17-22).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to prepare a coating with hydrophilic properties, as Groitzsch et al. taught. One would have been

motivated to do so by routine experimentation in adding a thickening agent to a coating or depending on the use of the textiles after receiving the coating (Groitzsch: column 4, lines 42-50).

With respect to claim 15, Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not specifically teach producing clothing for rainwear or safety clothing with high visibility. However, it would have been obvious to do so, as Groitzsch et al. teach using a coated textile as rainwear (column 1, lines 23-28). One would have been motivated to do so since a coated textile produced by the combination of teachings by Kerins et al. and Keller et al. are made to resist soil and wetness (paragraphs 0067 and 0069).

13. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Van Paesschen et al. (US 3,650,740)

The teachings of claim 1 are as described.

Kerins et al. in view of Keller et al. do not teach transferring a hydrophobic layer onto a coated textile. However, Van Paesschen et al. teach that it would have been obvious to transfer hydrophobic particles onto a coating to provide a water-repellant barrier on top of a textile (abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

There is no teaching in the prior art of carrying out a transfer coating process of a hydrophobic film on a textile without the use of any adhesive, binder, or adhesion promoter.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sonya Mazumdar whose telephone number is (571) 272-6019. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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SPB ART UNIT 1734